

February 4, 2010

Andrew Crabtree
Principal Planner
Department of Planning, Building, & Code Enforcement
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Healthy Silicon Valley Applauds San Jose's Proposed Transportation Goals for 2040

Dear Mr. Crabtree and Members of the General Plan Task Force:

On behalf of Healthy Silicon Valley, I would like to applaud the City of San Jose Department of Transportation on the proposed mode share targets for 2040:

- 20% of trips will be made by transit
- 15% of trips will be made by bicycle
- 10% of trips will be made by walking

The benefits associated with the proposed targets are far-reaching and much needed, especially as we think about the health of San Jose residents.

As the obesity-prevention collaborative in Santa Clara County, Healthy Silicon Valley is focused on increasing two things: fresh produce consumption and physical activity levels. We see a direct connection between transportation, the built environment, and public health. As the built environment, the man-made structures we live within, becomes more conducive to alternative transportation public health will not only benefit but will thrive.

As we move toward the mode share goals of 2040 we take the focus away from auto-dependent communities. The time is right for the change and reports indicate that residents are ready for an increase in alternative transportation options.

Policies that Support and Promote Indirect Physical Activity Through Active Transportation are Needed.

The American Journal of Preventive Medicine reports that almost one-third of Americans who commute to work via public transit meet their daily requirements for physical activity by walking as part of their daily life, including to and from the transit stop.

The American Journal of Preventive Medicine also reports that people living in highly walkable, mixed-use communities are more than twice as likely to get 30 or more minutes of daily exercise as those living in auto-orientated, single-use areas.

More Than Half of Americans Would Like to Walk More and Drive Less

The Surface Transportation Policy Partnership reports that an overwhelming percentage of Americans support policies intended to make their communities more livable by reducing traffic speed and creating safer pedestrian environments.

Healthy Silicon Valley supports the transportation mode share 2040 goals. We believe the City is moving in the right direction, a direction that will benefit the health of San Jose residents for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Madrigal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" and last name "Madrigal" clearly distinguishable.

Sandra C. Madrigal
Executive Director